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EXHIBIT 10  
DATE 4-1-09  
~~SB~~ HJ 32

House Joint Resolution 32  
April 1, 2009  
Presented by Chas Van Genderen  
House Taxation Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Chas Van Genderen, Acting Administrator for the Parks Division of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

FWP rises in support of HJ 32. Heritage parks and resources are an important part of the Montana State Park system. Of the 53 state parks, we have 19 that are primarily cultural sites. These include seven National Historic Landmarks and nine National Register sites. These are places of incredible significance like Rosebud Battlefield in SE Montana, Pictograph Cave near Billings and Travelers' Rest in Lolo.

These sites are important to Montana and help define who we, as a people, are. They tell the story on our landscape and through our artifacts. We have done a good job of saying "Yes" to preserving places like Fort Owen, First People's Buffalo Jump, and Anaconda Stack as state parks. As a park system, however, we are struggling to fund day-to-day operations and maintenance. One approach we are using is to be more business-like while generating more revenues and to avoid asking for general fund monies. Heritage parks have not traditionally been good revenue generators. It is a challenge.

FWP has recently renewed our focus on working together with the Montana Historical Society and The Montana Heritage Commission to improve management. This resolution may help us further identify efficiencies, new approaches and ultimately better management on behalf of our citizens. FWP urges a do pass on HJ 32.